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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR.

19 Jan. 1950

SUBJECT Zerbst Airfield

NO. OF PAGES

2

FLD
20

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. a. The ZERBST (M 52/D 98) airfield was observed from its south-western corner between 11:30 a.m. and 3:40 p.m. in clear weather.
 b. The following aircraft were observed: Seven or eight jet aircraft of type No 2 (see Annex) parked in front of the north-east hangar, three low-wing monoplanes (type undetermined) inside the partially open hangar and 30 to 40 aircraft of an undetermined type east of the hangar.
2. One plane each of types (1 and 2) alternately flew over the left section of the field between 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., each flight lasting about 10 minutes. Small white flags, 160 feet apart, marked the right and left borders of the runway. A radio station of four braced, about 25-foot radio masts, arranged in a square was south of the runway. Three AA guns of about 80 mm caliber and 10-foot barrels, surrounded by earthwalls, were emplaced on the southern edge of the landing field. The breechblocks of the guns, probably provided with flash hiders, were covered.
3. Description of Jet Aircraft:
 a. Type No 1: Nose wheel, considerably rounded wing roots, weapons not observed; cockpit possibly two-seat (not definitely recognized), good climbing ability after the take-off, average speed estimated at 280 mph; lower section painted a light blue. This type was observed several times over the field at an altitude of about 500 feet.
 b. Type No 2: Low-wing monoplane, wings considerably swept back and dihedral; high rudder assembly, elevator assembly not accurately seen, tripod landing gear with nose wheel; after take-off flying horizontally at an altitude of about 330 feet, landing gear was retracted afterwards; average speed at local flights estimated at 400 mph; small bulges, probably metal cover plates for landing gear, set under wings, not painted (silver metal sheen). This type was observed several times in side-view flights and once when crossing the field.

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4. The observed flying gave the impression that retraining from aircraft type No 1 to type No 2 was being done.
5. The airfield buildings were surrounded by a 6-foot board fence. The ZERBST-DOBATE (M 53/E 09) road was blocked at the field. Boundary lights were not observed.
6. Air force officers wearing fur clothing were repeatedly observed at the field entrance. [redacted] truck [redacted] shuttled between ZERBST and the field. Truck [redacted] and passenger car [redacted] were seen at the field entrance.

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Comment:

a. The report confirms the observations made [redacted] according to which, besides Yak-3s, two jet aircraft types (Yak-15 and a type with swept-back wings) were stationed in ZERBST. The Yak-15s are possibly used for the training of pilots on jet aircraft. It has not been learned whether the jet aircraft stationed in ZERBST are from a special unit or whether they are assigned to the fighter regiments equipped with Yak-3s. [redacted] the jet aircraft are apparently serviced by the ground units assigned to the fighter regiments which are equipped with conventional fighters.

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b. The described radio station is probably an Adcock DF station.

c. The presence of an AA gun emplacement on the southern edge of the airfield was confirmed [redacted]

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1 Annex: Jet Aircraft Observed at the ZERBST Airfield.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

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